

VZCZCXYZ0010
PP RUEHWEB

DE RUEHKE #0036 0121010
ZNR UUUUU ZZH
P 121010Z JAN 07
FM AMEMBASSY KINSHASA
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5413
INFO RUCNDT/USMISSION USUN NEW YORK 0476

UNCLAS KINSHASA 000036

SIPDIS

SENSITIVE
SIPDIS

E.O. 12958: N/A
TAGS: [PREL](#) [KPKO](#) [PHUM](#) [CG](#)
SUBJECT: MONUC EFFORTS AGAINST SEXUAL EXPLOITATION AND
ABUSE IN CONGO

REF: A. 06 STATE 204157
[1](#)B. 06 KINSHASA 1133

[1](#)1. (U) This message provides an update on efforts by the UN Mission to the Congo (MONUC) to combat trafficking in persons (TIP) and sexual exploitation and abuse (SEA) by peacekeepers in the DRC (ref A). Post reported in July 2006 that incidents of SEA by MONUC military and civilian staff were much reduced over previous years (ref B).

[1](#)2. (SBU) According to MONUC's Conduct and Discipline Team (CDT) Chief Marie-Anne Marin, MONUC provided over 40,000 two-hour training sessions on combating TIP and SEA in 2006. The MONUC Force Commander addressed the issues of TIP and SEA with all contingent commanders every three months, and Special Representative of the Secretary General William Swing revisited the topics every six weeks with civilian staff. A TIP/SEA hotline, website, and newsletter were established at the mission.

[1](#)3. (SBU) Current planning focuses on increased welfare activities (i.e., R&R trips, gyms) to help prevent future incidents. MONUC's zero tolerance policy against the use of prostitutes, any type of sexual activities with children, or any sexually abusive or exploitative act remains in force. Marin said less than 0.1 percent of all military and less than 2 percent of all civilian mission employees were accused of SEA violations in 2006.

[1](#)4. (SBU) Post is aware of one serious incident potentially involving MONUC peacekeepers since July 2006. In August, media outlets reported the existence of a child (i.e., minors younger than 18) prostitution ring involving peacekeepers and DRC soldiers in South Kivu province. Investigations by MONUC found that most patrons were Congolese soldiers. The MONUC Force Commander declared the alleged brothels off-limits and reinforced military police. Allegations were referred to the Office of Internal Oversight Services, and investigations are ongoing.

[1](#)5. (SBU) The director of a leading South Kivu NGO that deals with child prostitutes and victims of sexual violence told us that MONUC's immediate response to the reports assuaged community concern. He said he has received no further reports involving MONUC personnel in the area.

[1](#)6. (U) Post used local media sources, human rights reporting by Congolese NGOs, and local contacts throughout 2006 to assess MONUC TIP/SEA prevention effectiveness.
MEECE